

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims:

1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid comprises nucleotides 81-944 of the human heme oxygenase-I nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is *ex vivo*.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is *in vivo*.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said organ transplant is an allograft.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said allograft is a heart.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is accomplished by direct injection of said nucleic acid adenoviral vector into said organ.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the heme oxygenase-I activity in said cells is increased.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is *ex vivo*.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is *in vivo*.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said organ transplant is an allograft.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said allograft is a heart.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is accomplished by direct injection of said ~~nucleic acid~~ adenoviral vector into said organ.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for extending the survival of an organ transplant in a recipient, said method comprising:

contacting cells of an organ transplant with an adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid having at least about 80% sequence identity to nucleotides 81-944 of the human heme oxygenase-I nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:1) SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having heme-oxygenase activity; and whereby the survival time of said organ transplant is extended.

29. (Currently amended) A method for extending the survival of an organ transplant in a recipient, said method comprising:

contacting cells of an organ transplant with an adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide with at least about 80% amino acid sequence identity with the human heme oxygenase-I encoded by nucleotides 81-944 of the nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polypeptide has heme-oxygenase activity, and whereby the survival time of said organ transplant is extended.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein said polypeptide comprises human heme oxygenase encoded by nucleotides 81-944 of the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the heme oxygenase-I activity in said cells is increased.